



How do rural mobility grants improve transportation in rural areas?

The Washington State Legislature established the Rural Mobility Grant Program in 1993 with a \$1.5 million appropriation to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

The Rural Mobility Grant Program gives rural communities a chance to implement public transportation services in areas where limited or no service is currently available.

What are the goals of the rural mobility grant program?

The rural mobility grant program goals are to establish, preserve, and improve rural transportation by:

- providing seed demonstration money to local areas to help them determine if the community benefits from and there is support for general public transportation
- providing short-term funding to preserve rural public transportation where there is a demonstrated need
- improving community-to-community connections in corridors where there are deficiencies
- enhancing rural public transportation
- preserving capital investments



Public transportation in rural areas fosters independent living.

What is rural mobility doing for us?

In rural areas, a lack of transportation often traps people in their homes. The Rural Mobility Grant Program provides big dividends by helping rural citizens live and work to the best of their ability. A majority of projects selected for the program would not have been implemented without state funding.

In 2001-2003, WSDOT distributed and monitored \$3.3 million in rural mobility grants. Those funds were leveraged to gain a \$3.95 million match in federal and local funds. The program has measurably increased mobility in rural areas of Washington. From July 2001 - June 2002, Rural Mobility Grants provided:

- 104,329 passenger trips
- 658,110 miles of service
- 29,802 hours of service
- Three transit shelters and ten buses

2001–2003 Rural Mobility Projects

1. **Asotin County**, \$55,000 to purchase a vehicle for use by Valley Transit in the Lewiston and Clarkston Valley.
2. **Ben Franklin Transit**, \$124,000 to purchase two 21-passenger vehicles for use in Prosser/Benton City.
3. **Columbia County**, \$252,000 to purchase two minibuses and operate bus service in Columbia County.
4. **Garfield County**, \$54,000 for service in Pomeroy and between Pomeroy and Lewiston/Clarkston.
5. **Greyhound Lines, Inc.**, \$151,147 for service between Washougal and Goldendale along SR 14.
6. **Island Transit**, \$268,941 for service between Oak Harbor and Mt Vernon in Island and Skagit counties.
7. **Jefferson Transit**, \$215,000 for service between Forks and Amanda Park in Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor Counties.
8. **Northwestern Stage Lines**, \$63,845 for service between Wenatchee and Ellensburg along SR97.
9. **Olympic Bus Lines**, \$66,621 for service between Port Angeles, Seattle, and SeaTac.
10. **Pacific Transit**, \$225,000 for service in Pacific County with connections to Aberdeen and Astoria.
11. **People For People—Moses Lake**, \$150,906 for service in Grant, Adams, and Lincoln counties.
12. **People For People—Yakima**, \$354,000 for bus service between Yakima and Grandview, along Highway 12 to Naches, and along I-82 between Yakima and Ellensburg.
13. **Pullman Transit**, \$56,000 to replace one maxi-van for service in Pullman.
14. **San Juan Transit**, \$60,000 for local rural bus service on San Juan Island.
15. **Squaxin Island Tribe**, \$171,450 to construct transit shelters and bus pullouts on the Squaxin Island Reservation and operate local rural bus service.
16. **Special Mobility Services**, \$85,759 for intercity bus service between Newport and Spokane.
17. **Special Mobility Services**, \$124,395 for bus service along Highway 395 and Highway 2, serving Deer Park and communities in northern Spokane County.
18. **Twin Transit**, \$95,000 for bus service in southern Lewis County as part of the SW Washington Transportation Area-Wide Regional Service (STARS) project.
19. **Wheatland Express, Inc.**, \$143,280 for service along two deficient corridors in SE Washington.
20. **White Pass Community Service Center**, \$347,795 for route deviated intercity bus service between Packwood and Centralia in Lewis County as part of the STARS project.
21. **Whitman County**, \$70,000 to purchase one bus and renovate another. Funds help operate a van program in Palouse and “flex service” in Pullman and portions of Whitman, Asotin, and Spokane counties.
22. **Yelm Community Services**, \$165,861 for service in the rural areas of Thurston County.